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REVIEWS AND CRITICISMS

record of these cases extends over eight and one-tenth years. Ten of the two hundred had been kept for a period of twenty years and upwards; thirty-six for ten years and upwards; and thirty-two for four years. Seventy-two per cent. of the records investigated proved satisfactory. There are only twenty-nine out of the whole number of cases studied that were distinctly unsatisfactory in post-institutional life. Of these, thirteen are classified as almost deficient mentally. The author pertinently asks the question whether, when we talk glibly of the home-tie which is broken when a child is placed in an institution, there is not a risk that we shall sacrifice a very tangible good to a sentiment to which we may be very far from being able to give satisfactory effect. Undoubtedly, it is true that a good institution is preferable to a very defective home, such as the author includes in her lowest group—that group, for instance, in which the food is definitely bad, served irregularly, and seldom if ever prepared, a home in which the diet consists of (1) mostly bread, tea, and scraps; (2) much bread, occasionally a half-penny worth of soup; (3) mostly bread, and potatoes also, when they can be afforded. It is probable also that a good institution is preferable to the next lowest, or third group, in which the author includes those families whose meals are likely to be irregular, owing either to a definite shortage of food which makes it necessary to go without or to a habit of eating whatever food is obtainable at any hour of the day. There is, in such a home, a certain amount of cooked food. An example of the fare in this group is “sometimes two-penny worth of meat and potatoes, quaker oats, bread and lard or drippings”; also “a turnip and some potatoes for dinner, sometimes only bread—meat and milk very rare.”

When the author turns to an examination of the nature of the employment of children in post-institutional life, as compared with the employment of children who are in deficient homes and enjoy the benefit of “out-relief,” she finds the situation greatly superior in the case of post-institution children.

On the whole, the study is a satisfactory brief in favor of emphasis upon institutional care of unfortunate children, rather than relief for such children in the *defective homes* to which many of them belong.

Northwestern University.

ROBERT H. GAULT.

SUMMARIES OF LAWS RELATING TO THE COMMITMENT AND CARE OF THE INSANE IN THE UNITED STATES. By *John Koren*, National Committee for Mental Hygiene, New York, 1912. Pp. 297. \$1.00.

As a contribution toward the protection of the mental health of the public and to help raise the standard of care for those who are mentally ill, the National Committee for Mental Hygiene has had this summary prepared. The laws relating to the insane were in the beginning intended merely to safeguard the public against a class of unfortunates who were considered dangerous. With the modern conception that the mentally disordered person is sick and therefore amenable to treatment, a new body of legislation is arising which seeks to realize better ideals. The insanity laws, therefore, reflect the status of public care

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given to the insane. There is a bewildering diversity of legislation in this field. The summary under review sets forth systematically the prescriptions of the laws in the different states in the hope that it may prove useful to legislators and to those who are charged with the supervision and care of the insane. The summaries cover the laws of each state and of the District of Columbia. They are based upon a first hand examination of the present codes and statutes of the respective states ending with the first session of the year 1912.

Northwestern University.

ROBERT H. GAULT.

THE KALLIKAK FAMILY, A STUDY OF FEEBLE-MINDEDNESS. By *Henry Herbert Goddard*, Ph.D. Macmillan Company, New York, 1913.

This is a book whose value in the study of heredity cannot be overestimated. The standing of its author and of the school with which he is connected are such guarantees of the authenticity of its data and the correctness of the work as to make it invaluable. Its aim is to prove what Dr. Winship attempted to show in his comparison of the descendants of Jonathan Edwardes with the Jukes. The earlier study failed; it was a *non-constat*, because the difference in results was not necessarily due to heredity (see page 52). This book succeeds because "The Kallikak Family"—as its name indicates—contains both Jukes and Edwardes in it. The Jukes being the descendants of the feeble-minded mother, while the Edwardes were descendants of the legal wife of normal mentality. It is interesting further to note that the Kallikak Family is one of the most famous families in the history of New Jersey, the progenitor of the bad branch being a son of the signer of the Declaration of Independence and a founder of Princeton University. Goddard, with his assistants, has covered data beginning before the year 1735 and continuing it down to the present generation, both in the normal and in the feeble-minded branch. Briefly, Caspar Kallikak came to this country and bought a farm from the Proprietor of New Jersey. He held a position of honor and prominence. His children have married in their own station of life to this day, but Martin Kallikak in the troublous days of the Revolution had an illegitimate son by a feeble-minded child. After the Revolution he settled down, marrying a woman of position, and had by her a son Frederick. These two branches have been studied side by side, and while the legitimate branch has continued to be of prominence and its members to lead lives of respectability, with no taint of feeble-mindedness, the illegitimate branch has sunk lower and lower. It consists of 438 descendants, 143 of whom were, or are, feeble-minded; only 46 have been found normal, the rest being unknown or doubtful. A trace of the love of wine extended throughout both branches, but in the normal branch this has led to no degeneracy, with possibly one exception, while in the feeble-minded branch it has resulted in practically a continuous line of anti-social citizens.

The book is composed of five chapters; the first the "Story of Deborah," which gives an account of the attempt at the Vinland Insti-